GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3060
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2014
DRINKING WATER AVAILABILITY IN HIMALAYAN REGION
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a paucity of drinking water during non-monsoon months, especially during winters, in the Indian Himalayan Region;

(b) if so, the details of .drinking water availability, month-wise, across the Himalayan States in India;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken, or considered, any schemes or initiatives to offset any such shortage of drinking water in Himalayan States during such times;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has not received any information from the concerned States regarding paucity of drinking water during non-monsoon months, especially during winters, in the Indian Himalayan Region.

(b) Month-wise data of availability of drinking water is not maintained at Ministry Level. However,as per the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) . guidelines, the minimum norm for providing drinking water supply in rural areas is 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) , that is required to meet the needs of drinking, cooking, bathing, washing utensils and ablution etc. based on basic minimum need. State Governments, including Himalayan States in India, have also been given the flexibility to fix their own higher norm based on water availability, demand and capital cost involved. Under the NRDWP, supply of the minimum required quantity of safe drinking water is monitored in terms of coverage of rural habitations.

(c) & (d) Drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments with technical and financial assistance for provision of safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, Slates can utilize upto 67% of funds released to them for provision of safe and adequate drinking water to rural habitations .

(e) Does not arise.